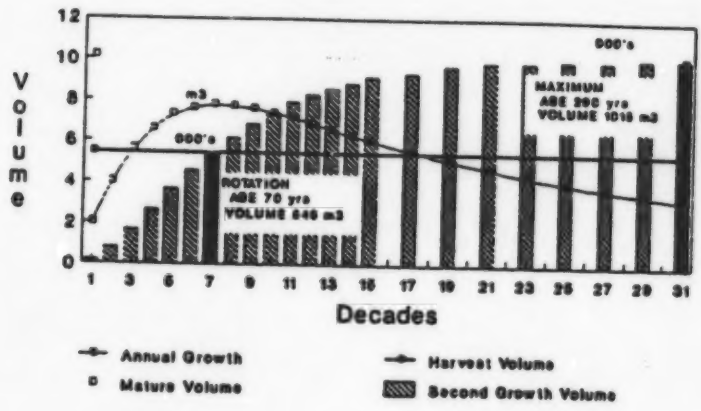
A REVIEW

of the Report Entitled

LOWER TSITIKA VALLEY
A CASE FOR PRESERVATION
"CHANGING FORREST VALUES"

A Report And Critique To The Tsitika Follow-up Committee
by
Western Canada Wilderness Committee, Victoria, B.C. Branch



Prepared by

FORGIS Resource Consultants Ltd.

July 20, 1991

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Introduction

In presenting our findings we have confined our comments to the scope specified in our instructions, namely:

1. An assessment of the Annual Harvest Rate (AHR) in the Tsitika Watershed as allowed under the Tsitika Watershed Integrated Resource Plan,

2. An assessment of the Long Run Sustained Yield (LRSY) for the Tsitika Watershed,

3. An assessment of the degree to which the Licensees are meeting the requirements of the Plan, and

4. An assessment of the findings of Western Canada Wilderness Committee with respect to activities within the Tsitika Watershed including estimation of LRSY and rates of harvest.

We have not commented on the objectives of the Plan or on the desired ratio of Annual Harvest Rates to LRSY.

We have, however, noted a number of anomalies and inconsistencies in both the 1978 Tsitika Watershed Integrated Resource Plan and in the B.C. Forest Service Review of Tsitika Watershed - Updated Technical Background (November 1990).

4. Degree to which the Licensees are Meeting the Requirements as Set Out in the Tsitika Watershed Integrated Resource Plan

Based o. the planned harvest volumes and areas as outlined in the TWIRP (p.38) the Licensees have operated within the objectives of the plan.

	Projected Volume m3	Actual Volume m3
MacMillan Bloedel	1,846,268	1,930,090
Canadian Forest Products	900,795	768,172
Western Forest Products	197,243	297,702
TOTAL	2,944,306	2,995,964

	Projected Area - ha	Actual Area - ha
MacMillan Bloedel	2,221.4	2,203.2
Canadian Forest Products	1,264.3	908.5
Western Forest Products	261.3	364.8
TOTAL	3,747.0	3,476.5

DIFFERENCE: Volume overcut of 51,658 m3
Area undercut of 207.5 hectares

- 20.81% of the entire watershed, and
- 27.57% of the mature forest land base.

5.3 Harvest Rate to LRSY

The mean MAI, based on site and species specific allocation of yield estimates was determined to be 8.408 m3/ha/yr or 22.16% higher than that estimated by WCWC. WCWC used the mean MAI from Block 2 of TFL 39 and applied it to the entire watershed.

Using the actual productive mature contributing land base of 21,983 hectares and an allowance of 3 percent of all contributing lands for roads (660 hectares) the harvest rates to LRSY are as shown below.

Period Years	Annual Harvest m3	LRSY m3/yr	Harvest Rate to LRSY
1-6	224,347	179,285	+ 25.1 %
7-15	319,509	179,285	+ 78.2 %
16-30	315,338	179,285	+ 75.9 %
31-60	219,930	179,285	+ 22.7 %
61-80	154,257	179,285	- 14.0 %
MEAN	232,941	179,285	+ 29.9 %

The estimated mean volume of second growth stands, assuming a rotation age of 80 years, is 673 cubic metres per hectare (80 yrs x 8.408 m3/yr.) as compared to a mean old growth volume of 835.2

The calculations presented by WCWC are correct, however, WCWC has not included the year 1979 in its calculations.

If 1979 is included in the calculations, as it should be according to the plan, then the figures would be as follows:

Period	TWIRP hectares	MB hectares	Difference
1979-84	1007	828	- 17.8%
1985-89	1214	1375	+ 13.3%
TOTAL	2221	2203	- 1.0%

These figures indicate that MacMillan Bloedel has not logged more area than allowed under the plan.

6. General Comments

The land base analysis conducted on the inventory data provided by the Licensees coincides well in terms of the contributing land base with the Land Uses in the Tsitika Watershed as presented in the B.C. Forest Service Review of Tsitika Watershed - Updated Technical Background (1990). However, there were a number of anomalies encountered in terms of the allocation of land uses for the reserved, deferred and non-productive land use categories.

- The Fishing Corridors were found to cover 259 hectares, or 44 hectares more that reported in the 1990 B.C.F.S. Review.

- The wildlife deferral areas were found to be 2,353 hectares, or 176 hectares greater than reported in the 1990 B.C.F.S. Review.

- The non-commercial forest area (deciduous, inaccessible, low volume and non-productive) was found to be 9,543 hectares, or 788 hectares more than reported in the 1990 B.C.F.S. Review.

- The area designated as unstable soils was found to be 3,641 hectares or 639 hectares less than reported in the 1990 B.C.F.S. Review.

These differences in areas clearly indicate the need to update the Tsitika Watershed Folio Maps and their attendant statistics.

It would also be of great benefit to include all areas designated as reserved or deferred on the TFL forest inventory maps.

Province of
British Columbia

NEWS RELEASE

MINISTRY OF FORESTS
For Immediate Release
March 13, 1992

1992:021

Timber harvesting in Tsitika was according to plan, says consultant

VICTORIA -- An independent consultant's report says licencees harvested timber in the Tsitika watershed in northeast Vancouver Island in accordance with the objectives of the Tsitika Watershed Integrated Resource Plan.

The report by Dr. Robin Quenet was released today by Forests Minister Dan Miller.

Quenet disputes a Western Canada Wilderness Committee's low estimate of the percentage of preserved, productive, and accessible forest in the watershed.

In 1990, the Western Canada Wilderness Committee issued a critique on forest management in the watershed. The Tsitika Follow-up Committee, which monitors and guides the implementation of the Tsitika Plan, responded to all the comments in the critique, except an allegation that timber harvesting exceeded the planned level.

The Tsitika Follow-up Committee referred this component to Dr. Robin Quenet, of Forgis Resource Consultants Ltd. of Victoria, for an independent assessment and analysis.

Quenet found that the licencees -- MacMillan Bloedel Ltd., Canadian Forest Products, and Western Forest Products -- had harvested timber in the watershed according to the plan's objectives.

During the first 11 years in the watershed, the licensees harvested timber on an area that was 207.5 hectares less than the 3,747 hectares allowed under the plan. This area yielded 2,995,954 cubic metres, which was within 1.8 per cent of the 2,944,306 cubic metres projected in the plan.

This difference, the report states, is within the expected variations in timber volume estimates.

The report also stated that the percentage of preserved, productive, and accessible forest is significantly greater than the five per cent estimated by the Western Canada Wilderness Committee.

It noted that 3,804 hectares of productive and accessible mature forests have been permanently preserved. This is 9.46 per cent of the entire watershed, 12.53 per cent of the mature forest land base, and 13.67 of the productive, accessible, mature forest land base.

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The report stated that 4,564 hectares of mature forests have been deferred from timber harvesting to provide for a long-term winter habitat for deer. This, together with the preserved area, accounts for 20.18 per cent of the entire watershed, or 27.57 of the mature forest land base.

The report also deals with other technical calculations relating to the timber cut and it states that there were a number of anomalies in the allocation of land-uses for the reserved, deferred, and non-productive land-use categories.

It cites, for instance, that the total productive harvestable forest of 21,323 hectares, plus 660 hectares for roads, exceeded the 21,505 hectares reported in the 1990 Forest Service review by 478 hectares.

The 1,866 hectares of ecological reserves was also less than the 2,020 hectares reported in the same review. The difference of 154 hectares can be attributed to the inclusion of a portion of the sea around Robson Bight and to differences in boundaries, the report states.

The boundaries differ between the originally proposed (1978) boundaries and the final gazetted boundaries of the ecological reserve.

The public can view the report by contacting Bruce Thompson, secretary, Tsitika Follow-up Committee, Vancouver Forest Region, 4595 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. V9W 4L9, or by contacting the Public Affairs Branch, 595 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, B.C. V8W 3E7. Copies will also be available for viewing at Vancouver Island forest district offices located in Port McNeill, Campbell River, Port Alberni and Duncan.

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EDITORS/NEWS DIRECTORS NOTE: A copy of the Executive Summary is available on request from:

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Phone: 387-5255